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The latitude observations made at the same time were not entirely satisfactory, and will be repeated. They indicate, however, that the difference between the astronomical and geodetic latitude is not much above 1″ of arc.

E. S. H.

The Red Spot on *Jupiter*.

A very useful work could be done by any member of the Society who has the leisure for it, by computing the times when the meridian of *Jupiter* passing through the red spot was turned towards the earth, in the years *before* 1878 (the date of its discovery). The invaluable ephemerides for physical observations of *Jupiter* which are published annually by Dr. Marth make this calculation a simple one for many years past. The drawings of the planet previous to 1878 should be examined, in order to study the appearance of the belt on which the red spot is situated and to detect the *first* appearance of a disturbance in this region. There is reason to believe that as early as 1857 Dawes described an appearance of the sort.

The present note is written to call attention to a very remarkable drawing of the planet made on January 5, 1870, by Professor Mayer (*Journal of the Franklin Institute*, February, 1870, page 136), which has escaped attention hitherto. This drawing shows an elliptical ring which strikingly suggests the red spot in form and position. It was central at 8^h, Bethlehem (Lehigh University) mean time, on January 5, 1870. So far as I know, the work suggested is not now in hand.

E. S. H.

Table of Constants Relating to the Sun and to the Moon.

The following tables, reprinted from Young's *The Sun* and from Neison's *The Moon*, may be found convenient for reference.

A. J. B.

Solar Statistics.

(From Young's *The Sun*, page 278.)

Solar parallax (equatorial horizontal): 8.80″ ± 0.02″.

Mean distance of the sun from the earth: 92,885,000 miles; 149,480,000 kilometres.

Variation of the distance of the sun from the earth between January and June: 3,100,000 miles; 4,950,000 kilometres.

Linear value of 1″ on the sun's surface: 450.3 miles; 724.7 kilometres.

Mean angular semidiameter of the sun: 16′ 02.0″ ± 1.0″.

Sun's linear diameter: 866,400 miles; 1,394,300 kilometres.[*]

Ratio of the sun's diameter to the earth's: 109.3.

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[*] This may, perhaps, be *variable* to the extent of several hundred miles.